



December 3, 2010

## CBCS Associate Professor receives Outstanding Teaching Award

Tamara Baker, Associate Professor in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences' (CBCS) School of Aging Studies, received the University of South Florida Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for the 2009-10 school year. She was presented her award in a ceremony on November 29, 2010.

Baker learned about the award when CBCS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Catherine Batsche, and other USF faculty members and officials interrupted her class and handed her an official letter from USF System President Judy Genshaft. Baker says she was in "complete shock when they walked in, and thought to myself, 'Oh my goodness, what did I do wrong?' Once they made the announcement, I thought I had won the lottery!"



Baker goes on to say that she felt her "students were more shocked" than she was. One student even made Baker laugh by saying she thought the officials were coming to "take Baker away", but that she "had her back if they did." After the students discovered that Baker was being presented with the award, the room was filled with the sound of clapping and cheering. According to Batsche, "it was obvious from the student reaction that the University made the right choice in selecting Dr. Baker for the award."

Baker received her PhD in 2001 from Penn State University and completed her post doctoral training at the University of Michigan in the School of Public Health's Center of Ethnicity, Culture, and Health, and the Department of Anesthesiology. Her research agenda focuses on the behavioral and psychosocial predictors and outcomes of chronic pain and disease in older adults from diverse racial and ethnic populations. She also has a particular interest in examining health disparities and disparities in chronic pain management across the age continuum among community-dwelling adults in general, and older Black adults in particular.